



62 Years of DX-cellence

October 2010



BULLetin

The Southern California DX Club Newsletter est. 1947

*"If you need him
get in there and
work him"*

The Southern California DX Club is a group of dedicated men and women active in the amateur radio community who enjoy communicating over the air with other radio amateurs around the world.

The newsletter is published every month and is released to its members about the first of each month. Amateur and DX related letters, news and pictures are welcome and will be published as time and space permit.

Articles may be republished with the recognition of the author and the club. Reuse of copyrighted materials require the original author's permission.

Any questions regarding this newsletter or its articles should be addressed to the editor, Bill
n6rv@scdxc.org

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM except April, June and December.

Please check the club web site for events and details at
<http://www.scdxc.org>

If you are in the area please say hello on our repeater
W6AM/R145.48,(-) 100Hz PL



NEXT MEETING

October 14 @ 7:30 PM!

Bill Whitlock

Equipment Grounding and Interfacing

- **Constitution Passes!**
- **CQWW SSB Contest!**
- **North Korea!**
- **We Have New Entities**
- **We Still Need**
 - Reporters
 - Articles
 - Interesting Tidbits

**Making friends all over the world using the magic of Amateur Radio.
Sponsors of the International DX Convention, since 1949**

Hot Off the Press!

The following Press Release was delivered to me by Bernie, W3UR, from the Daily DX. Bernie requested that we disseminate this information ASAP. Please see the band plan on the next page.

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Date: Sept. 30, 2010

From: DXpedition leaders/teams participating in DXpeditions to new DXCC entities beginning 10-10-10

To: ALL interested DXers worldwide

Due to the unprecedented number of potential new DXCC entities and numerous planned DXpeditions commencing 10-10-10, we felt it was prudent to establish a Band Plan to try to minimize interference between DXpeditions and their pileups. The following Band Plan is the result of discussions that have been ongoing for several weeks. It is a Plan....however, without the cooperation of DXers, the plan will not work. It is extremely important that DXers call DXpeditions only within the specified frequency ranges. If you do not, you will not work the station you are calling and you will likely interfere with another DXpedition on another Island. This will require cooperation and discipline.

Success of this plan also requires that DXers help spread the information about the Band Plan to their fellow DXers and DX Clubs. WE NEED YOUR HELP! But if we work together, we will be able to get many, many DXers into our logs!

Thanks for your cooperation!

Bob K4UEE-Saba-PJ6A
Jeff K8ND-Curacao-PJ2T
Craig K9CT-St. Maarten-PJ7E
Kelly N0VD-Bonaire-various
Will AA4NC-St. Eustatius-TBD
Dave AH6HY-St. Eustatius-TBD
Paul K1XM-St. Eustatius-TBD
Jim K1NA-St. Eustatius-PJ5NA

Band Plan on Next Page

10-10-10 PJ Operations Band Plan

CURACAO	BONAIRE	STATIA	SABA	ST. MAARTEN	
PJ2	PJ4	PJ5	PJ6	PJ7	
160					
CW	1810-1817	1818-1825	1826-1833	1834-1841	1842-1849
SSB	Ops choice>1850	Ops choice>1850	Ops choice>1850	No SSB	No SSB
80					
CW	3501-3510	3511-3520	3521-3530	3531-3540	3541-3550
SSB TX	3671-3674	3676-3679	3681-3684	3686-3689	3691-3694
SSB RX Primary	3701-3710	3711-3720	3721-3730	3731-3740	3741-3750
SSB RX secondary	Ops choice>3800	Ops choice>3800	Ops choice>3800	Ops choice>3800	Ops choice>3800
Digital	3570-3575	3576-3581	3582-3587	3588-3593	3594-3599
40					
CW	7001-7010	7011-7020	7021-7030	7031-7040	7041-7050
SSB TX	7075-7078	7080-7083	7085-7088	7090-7093	7095-7098
SSB RX Primary	7126-7135	7136-7145	7146-7155	7156-7165	7166-7175
SSB RX Secondary	Ops choice>7175	Ops choice>7175	Ops choice>7175	Ops choice>7175	Ops choice>7175
Digital	7051-7055	7056-7060	7061-7065	7066-7070	7071-7075
30					
CW	10101-10106	10107-10112	10113-10118	10119-10124	10125-10130
Digital	10130-10133	10134-10137	10138-10141	10142-10145	10146-10149
20					
CW	14001-14013	14014-14027	14028-14041	14042-14055	14056-14069
SSB TX	14125-14130	14131-14135	14136-14140	14141--14145	14146-14150
SSB RX Primary	14170-14180	14181-14190	14200-14210	14211-14220	14240-14250
SSB RX Secondary	Ops choice>14255	Ops choice>14255	Ops choice>14255	Ops choice>14255	Ops choice>14255
Digital	14072-14077	14078-14083	14084-14089	14090-14094	14095-14099
17	ODD days	EVEN days	ODD days	EVEN days	ODD Days
CW	18068-18078	18068-18078	18079-18088	18078-18088	18089-18098
EVEN days	ODD days	EVEN days	ODD days	EVEN days	
SSB	18120-18135	18120-18135	18136-18150	18136-18150	18151-18165
ODD days	EVEN days	EVEN days	ODD days		
Digital	18100-18105	18100-18105	no digital	18106-18110	18106-18110

Hot Off the Press!

About This Month's Speaker

Bill Whitlock has designed professional audio/video electronics since 1973 and has been president of Jensen Transformers since 1989. His lectures, seminars and writings have helped thousands unravel the mysteries of grounding and interfacing. Writings include numerous AES papers, dozens of magazine articles and white papers, as well as several chapters in Glen Ballou's "Handbook for Sound Engineers." He's been a guest lecturer at MIT and many other universities. His patents include the InGenius® balanced input circuit and the ExactPower® voltage regulator. He's a Fellow of the Audio Engineering Society and a Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers.

The Constitution Revisions Have Been Ratified!

Our club secretary Steve, W6NRQ reports that the vote regarding the revisions to the SCDXC constitution and by-laws carried by a landslide. Here are the results:

41 persons attended the meeting.
24 voting members present
24 voting members voted.

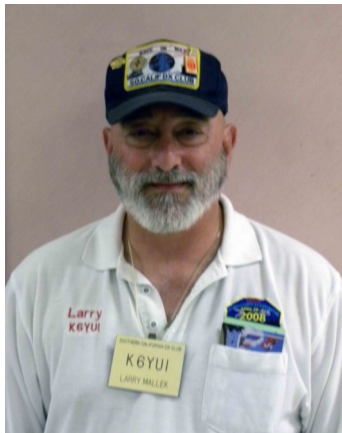
24 votes - yes
0 votes - no

We have a new Constitution and By-Laws Sept. 9, 2010

Look for the new Constitution and By-Laws as well as the updated Officers Guidelines on the SCDXC website www.scdxc.org.

2011 International DX Convention at Visalia

The website is up and running. It looks very nice and has many more pages. You can access it from the club website or directly at <http://www.dxconvention.org/>



THE PREZ SEZ
Larry Mallek, K6YUI,
President – Southern California DX
Club
[**k6yui@scdxc.org**](mailto:k6yui@scdxc.org)

Treasurer's Report
Club financial information is available on request. Contact the treasurer.

Officer Guidelines
The revised version of the Officers Guidelines is available on our website. See the hyperlink below.

Hello to everyone!

I sure hope that everyone that was at the August meeting had a great time. The night started off with the local Park Security person telling us that the reason the doors were locked was that we did not have a permit. After he made many calls someone found the permit and they sent a person over to unlock the doors and stay until we had our meeting. What a way to start the night.

I want to thank Skip – KJ6Y for handling all the bidding from the floor. He really did a great job and even had Sharon – K6IRD bidding on things from the back of the room with Wayne – W6IRD sitting up front and not even knowing Sharon was the bidder in the rear of the room. Bill – N6MXU even had to turn his chair around to watch the fun. Also Thank You goes to Jeff – K6JW for handling the money along with Ernie – N6HY's help.

Last week I got a chance to go to HRO when the Engineer's from Kenwood showed up with their new radio, the TS-590S. It's been some time since Kenwood has had a new low band radio. This radio seems to be just right for the person that is just getting into Ham Radio and wants to get on the low bands. Looks like the price will be around \$1800.00. It is a 100 watt radio and goes from 6 meters to 160 meters. Not bad at all.

The CQWW RTTY contest was last weekend and it seems that there were a few members playing RTTY. After a short time it got to hot in my radio room so I did not operate much.

As the year end is getting close I want to remind everyone that the Holiday Party in December is getting close, and you need to get your money in by November 22nd. The cost is only \$35.00 per person, the same as it was last year. All the information is on the Club WEB page.

Input for the Clipperton award and nominations are also due the first meeting in January.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the October meeting as the subject of proper grounding should be a great program.

Larry Mallek K6YUI President SCDXC

Officer Guidelines

http://www.scdxc.org/download/Officer_Guidelines.pdf

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

John Schroeder, N6QQ,
Vice President – Southern California DX Club
n6qq@scdxc.org



DXer of The Year
Congratulations Ernie
N6HY!
The Clipperton
Award
Congratulations Rich
AE6RS!

Greetings!

It looks like the September Auction went off Ok. Lots of bidding and goodies were changing hands. In fact after fierce bidding wars that raised a lot of money for the club some even won and took home what they brought! It is always fun and there are more than a few good laughs to be found.

At the October meeting we will meet Bill Whitlock. He will be driving down from Oxnard. Bill is one of the leading experts on grounding, and you'll get a lot of solid information from him. I am excited to learn from Bill.

We have some exiting changes in the DXCC entities this month! Boy oh boy will I be busy checking QSL cards after January 1, 2011!

ARRL Awards Committee Statement on Dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles

To clarify the administrative process by which the anticipated changes to the two existing Netherlands Antilles DXCC entities will be made, the ARRL Awards Committee has determined that at 0400Z (12:00 AM local time in the islands) on 10 October 2010, the two Netherlands Antilles DXCC entities will be deleted. Commencing at 0400Z (12:00 AM local time) on 10 October, 2010, operation from the islands of Curacao, Bonaire, Sint Maarten, Saba, and St Eustatius will count for a yet-to-be-determined number of new entities under the DXCC List Criteria, and Political Entities, Rule 1 and/or Rule 2 Geographic Separation Entities.

When the Awards Committee determines what Rule 1 or Rule 2 actions apply, it will announce the final disposition of the entities on the DXCC list. The DXCC desk will not accept confirmations for these new entities until after 1 January, 2011.

Start looking for PJ5, PJ2T, PJ7E, PJ6 and PJ7 on 10 Oct. 2010 and if you do not have the two existing PJ2 and PJ7 entities or you need to fill out band / modes then there will be several operations prior to the 10th. Take advantage of them. It will be your last chance!

For the October Contesters: Oct 3-4 California QSO Party, Oct 17-18 JARTS WW RTTY and the biggest SSB contest of the year CQ WW DX Contest.

The raffle will include the latest Heil Headset / mic, LCD monitor, books and other goodies.

See you at the October Meeting!

73, John N6QQ

Vice-President, SCDXC

September Prize Winners

Everyone who came and participated in the Anchors Away Auction! Thanks for making this a memorable meeting! We are what makes a difference!



THE EDITOR

Bill Kendrick, N6RV,
Editor – Southern California DX Club
n6rv@scdxc.org

Hello My Fellow DXers!

The contest and DX season has begun! I just finished up the CQWW RTTY DX Contest. All hear is birds chirping! This was my first attempt at the marathon event and, as with all DX contests, the opportunity to increase DX standings was ample! Do not miss the CQWW SSB contest the last full weekend of this month and the CW contest the last full weekend of November. By the way it was great to hear AI, K6YRA, on during the Scandinavian Activity Contest two weekends ago. There were more SM, TF, OY, OJ0, OH, OH0, OZ and LA stations on than any contest I have ever participated in! It would be great if we could get that many in the CQWW!

Speaking of the CQWW SSB contest I did not update the propagation charts for this years contests. It seems Old Sol is not being too cooperative. As you recall I built two sets of charts last year, one in the October Newsletter and the other in the November Newsletter. I was anticipating the cycle taking off with a bang so the charts were set up for an SFI of 70 in October and 80 in November. Here we are a year later and the SFI is a paltry 83! This has been the longest solar minimum in over 100 years and maybe it will be a record breaker! That said, if the CQWW RTTY contest is any indicator, then there is lots of DX and fun to be had over the next few months. Last years bulletins are still on line. Download the October and November bulletins and print out the charts. They can be modified slightly. It appears we are having some good late night openings into Deep Asia on 20 meters as well as some consistent openings to Europe on 15. Last weekend 10 meters was only slightly open to Transequatorial paths. There were several South American and Pacific stations active. I expect this to improve over the next few months. Possibly some Western Europe will sneak in on 10 this fall.

I am really hoping that the charts will be out of date and the Solar Flux takes off like a jet with its afterburners on! There is a study by certain "scientists" that indicate the sunspots will totally disappear around 2016. According to their snapshot in time measurements the Sun's magnetic field is weakening! Say I wonder if that will have any effect on global warming. The last time we had this sort of activity, the Maunder Minimum, the temperatures dropped. That period was named the Little Ice Age. I guess instead of going green the world will be going white. If their predictions are true then most of us will be trying to figure out how to configure the best low band antennas on city lots. Ten meters and twelve meters will be as useful as 2 meters for DX and 6 will only be good during Sporadic E season. Well at least we have six years to see if their prediction comes true. Hopefully it will be inaccurate. Given the observation time it probably is not as bad as they suggest.

See you at the meeting in two weeks!

73, de N6RV

... ..

New Members

Please welcome new members:

Gabriel Calfas
K6AWB

Diana Feinberg
AI6DF

Gene Brewer
W5DQ

Rick Crosmer
W6ENZ

Roger Merideth
K6GVO

Linda Souder
KD6HYN

Rob Reichman
WA3IHV

Lloyd Hendrickson
K6QNY

Arnold Schwartz
WB6PJC

Stan Thornton
KI6QM

David Lopez
N6RI

Dale Piedfort
KB7UB

Mark Willardson
N6OUZ

Barry Fitshe
N6VOH

Mary Gray
KH6VZ

Timothy Coker
N6WIN

***Make sure you meet
and greet them at the
next meeting!***

RUMORS ON THE BAND

A plethora of announcements, rumors, and serious DX fun

With the CQWW contest at the end of the month and the Netherlands Antilles change up the opportunity to increase DXCC standings is exceptional in the month of October. The number of DXpeditions is almost off the chart. I hear that some YLs from the club are planning a little jaunt down to one of the new entities. What is the word Cathy? Let us know at the meeting.

Useful DX Sites

N0HR DXpedition Map
www.n0hr.com/wk34/

The DX Zone
www.dxzone.com/catalog/DX_Resources/

The Daily DX
www.dailydx.com/

Announced DX Ops
www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html

DXing.info
www.dxing.info/dxpeditions/

DX 425 News
www.425dxn.org/dxped/

Dx-info.de
www.dx-info.de

DX Italia DX News
www.marioi2mqp.it

Netherlands Antilles

As John mentioned is his column PJ2 and PJ7 entities are going away. Here is the abbreviated version for people like me who want just the facts:

Deleted:

PJ2 / PJ4 Bonaire, Curacao
 PJ5 / PJ6 /PJ7 Saba, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius

New (TBR):

PJ2 Curacao
 PJ4 Bonaire
 PJ7 St. Maarten
 PJ5 / PJ6 Saba, St. Eustatius

So be ready to work at least four new ones. Please forward your updates to the club standings. I think everyone will have 2 more deleted entities.

Call	QTH	Start Date	End Date	Information	Website
T6LR	Afghanistan	Now		SP8HNB	-
YA	Afghanistan	Now	5/30/2011	KD5NOI (T6JC) & K5TLL (T6TL) 40-10 SSB & Digital	-
YI	Iraq	Now		KB2RLB (YI1RLB), KG4GYS (YI4GYS)	-
5V	Togo	Now	10/31/2010	11HJT I2YSB IK1AOD IK2CIO IK2CKR IK2DIA IK2HKT	-
5V	Togo	Now	10/31/2010	11HJT I2YSB IK1AOD IK2CIO IK2CKR IK2DIA IK2HKT	-
ZS8M	Marion Island	Now	4/1/2011	ZS1HF working trip on the air when possible. Several spots on 40m.	-
Z2	Zimbabwe	Now	11/1/2010	AC7GP/Z2 SSB, Digital, CQWW SSB	-
SU	Egypt	Now	11/15/2010	SU/HA3JB CW RTTY SSTV PSK a little SSB	-
5R8HT	Madagascar	Now	11/28/2010	F4DBJ 80-10m	-
ZD9	Gough Island	Now	9/1/2011	ZS1LF	-
FH8ND	Mayotte	Now		Mostly 17M SSB	-
D2QV	Angola	Now		UA0QV	-
5H9PD	Tanzania	10/2/2010	10/30/2010	W8FV Mostly CW	-
5R8RJ	Madagascar	10/4/2010	10/29/2010	DJ7RJ	-
TO7ZG	St. Barthelemy	10/6/2010	10/20/2010	DJ7ZG & DL7AFS	-
H40	Tometu	10/7/2010	10/22/2010	SP5DRH (H40KJ), SP3BQ (H40BQ) mostly CW	-
C9	Mozambique	10/15/2010	10/31/2010	GI4FUM (C91DJ), GI8MIV (C91MV), G4LDL (C91DL), G8KWD (C91KW), ZS6AVM (C91AV), ZS6GF (C91GF) and ZS6JR (C91JR) CQWW SSB C91MS and C91WW	http://www.3da0ss.net/events.htm
C56FR	Gambia	10/21/2010	11/11/2010	ON4TA mostly 17m / 15m SSB	-
A2	Botswana	10/21/2010	11/11/2010	I0ZY (A25ZY), IK1MDF (A25DF), I0ZY, IZ5MMB (A25MB), K5LBU (A25CF), K5ZOL (A25BI), KD5TAN (A25AN), W5SL (A25SL) 160-6 SSB/CW/RTTY A25HQ in CQWW SSB	http://www.gsl.net/a25-2010/
9X0SP	Rwanda	10/27/2010	11/1/2010	DL7DF, 9X0DL, 9X0RT, 9X0WK 160-10 SSB/CW/RTTY/Digi	http://www.dl7df.com/
C37N	Andorra	10/30/2010	10/31/2010	EA4UAR, EA4URE, & EA4RAF	http://www.gdgdxc.net/c37n/
SX5P	Dodecanese	10/26/2010	11/2/2010	ON4PO (J45PO) ON4MW (J45MW) SX5P CQWW SSB	-

DX ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Celebrate the Successes of Our Fellow Members!

Updates

Remember to Send in Your Updated Standings

Since there will be two more countries added to the deleted list and four new entities added to the DXCC list it seems like we should be busy updating the DXCC standings. Be sure to send them in!

SCDXC WAZ and DXCC Standings (N6RV)

The first of the two large numbers represent the number of confirmed zones on the 9 HF bands 160-10 (less 60 meters). The next column contain the following codes:

M **Mixed**
P **Phone**
C **CW**
R **RTTY**
5 **5 Band**

If you have any information to post please email me:

N6RV@SCDXC.ORG

FOR SALE

40M Verticals For Sale

I have three, full size, 40M self-supporting vertical antennas for sale. Each comes complete with a stub suitable for ground mounting the antenna. The antennas are copied from the Butternut HF-2V design, all tapering, in 4 foot lengths, from 1 1/4" to 3/8", they are constructed to be easily dis-assembled. The antennas are currently on the ground and ready for PU, price is \$75 each, or buy all 3 (I used three in a 1/4 wave triangle array) for \$200. You can't buy the alum. for that price! Pickup only in Placerville, de Rick,W6SR. Pics available upon request.

WAZ STANDINGS

	9B / 5B	Awards
EU7SA	355 / 200	M/5
N6AW	355 / 200	M/P/C/5
WA5VGI	352 / 200	M/P/C/5
W6VX	352 / 199	
K6FG	345 / 196	M/P/C/R/5
W6SR	342 / 200	M/P/C//5
W8DX	339 / 200	M/5
K6YUI	337 / 200	M/P/C/R/5
W6YOO	303 / 200	M/P/C/5
K6YRA	280 / 200	P/5
KC6X	278 / 200	M/C/5
N6RV	268 / 183	M/P/C
K6LD	271 / 172	M/P
KR6C	264 / 166	M/C
KJ6Y	261 / 172	
WD6L	248 / 200	M/P/5
K6SY	246 / 173	P
K6GXO	227 / 193	M
N6OU	220 / 200	M/5
N6DHZ	214 / 160	P
KH6DX/m	210 / 184	
NS6C	/ 198	
N6MXU	155 / 193	
K2PLF	191 / 191	
K6KII	191 / 177	M
W6IRD	181 / 147	M/P
W6NRQ	180 / 147	M/P
K6IRD	154 / 126	M/P
WA6BOB	152 / 136	M
K6IRA	118 / 102	
W3SE	102 / 112	
K6VC	96 / 96	P
W6EA	92 / 86	
N6VNI	86 / 64	
KA6TTV	82 / 67	
N6UC	78 / 78	M
N6GIL	49 / 43	
W6DCK	40 / 40	P
WB6PSY	40 / 40	P
K6JW	40 / 40	M/P
K6YR	39 / 39	
KT6LA	36 / 36	
NZ6L	36 / 36	
N6HE	36 / 34	
W4EF	29 /	
N6AWD		M
N6HC		M/P/C
KB6KTV		P
W6OES		M
K8RD		C
K6UNR	/ 200	M/P/5

DXCC STANDINGS

	TOT / CUR
K6KII	382 / 338
JA1BK	377 / 338
K6YRA	372 / 338
N6UC	365 / 338
K6YUI	360 / 338
K6EXO	360 / 335
NS6C	355 / 338
N6AW	355 / 337
W6HT	354 / 338
W6SR	353 / 338
K6IPV	353 / 334
WA6WZO	352 / 338
K8RD	351 / 338
K5KT	350 / 338
K6FG	350 / 338
K6GXO	350 / 338
K2PLF	349 / 338
N6RV	349 / 336
W8DX	348 / 337
W6OM	347 / 337
W6AUG	345 / 338
KC6X	344 / 337
W6OES	344 / 329
W6KK	343 / 338
W6VX	343 / 338
N6AWD	343 / 336
K6LD	343 / 338
W6DCK	342 / 336
WB6PSY	342 / 333
EU7SA	340 / 336
KB6KTV	340 / 335
W6YOO	340 / 334
WA5VGI	342 / 336
N6HC	338 / 333
KR6C	337 / 335
N6OU	334 / 329
N6HY	333 / 329
W6IRD	327 / 324
K6UNR	333 / 332
W6QE	332 / 324
KJ6Y	327 / 323
K2IXQ	322 / 321
K6SY	312 / 310
AD6KQ	299 / 299
WD6L	295 / 292
W6HB	291 / 285
N6DHZ	286 / 284
W6NRQ	284 / 284
N7CQQ	268 / 266
N6MXU	267 / 265
K6JW	253 / 251
K6YR	244 / 244
K6GEP	239 / 226
K6DJ	236 / 236
K6HCJ	235 / 235
K6IRD	229 / 229
K6GEP	229 / 226
K6VC	227 / 227
WA6BOB	202 / 198
N6VNI	195 / 195
KT6LA	161 / 161
KA6TTV	145 / 145
N6HE	145 / 140
K6OGO	142 / 142
W6EA	138 / 138
W6WVW	134 / 134
W4EF	132 / 132
K6LX	125 / 125
WA6NOL	112 / 111

SPURIOUS OUTPUTS

Comments, Announcements, and Interesting Tid-Bits Submitted by Members

Welcome Back Mel (K6SY)

Well I suppose you did not know that he was gone. Mel always does things in double time. This was no exception. He had knee replacement surgery and yes... he is back up and around. He says with the exception of a cruel and unusual device similar to a medieval torture machine that extends the knee to assist tuning it and in returning it to full range it was a breeze. Hey Mel can you have my hip replacement surgery for me? Great to hear you are doing well and hopefully we will see you at the meeting. Don't go carrying out chairs for a few months!

Six Meter Privileges Given to All of New Zeland in 2013 (ZL3TE)

Our resident member-at-large Wes sends this news release from the land of the Kiwi.

They finally announced their "PLAN" to switch off Analog TV in ZL by the end of 2013:

<http://www.mch.govt.nz/projects/broadcasting/digital-switch.html>

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/article.cfm?c_id=3&objectid=10673905

We still have TV CH 1 in ZL, with the NICAM Stereo at 51MHz. If one lives within a 35 Mile radius of a TV1 transmitter, 50MHz operations are prohibited. 54MHz is not a problem. Once the switch happens, I'm sure there will be many more ZL's on 50.110.

73, Wes, W3SE / ZL3TE

There is One Heck of A Newsletter Coming Out of Finland (W6HB)

Doug sent in this link to a Finnish DX Newsletter. You know those Fins do things in a big way. You thought this newsletter was long this one is 64 pages and every one of them is spectacular reading.

http://www.helsinki.fi/~korpela/PU/PU34_2010.pdf

Hams in Space! (W6NRQ)

Steve forwarded this link. Apparently ham radio on the ISS made ABC news!

<http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/bizarre&id=7685561>

More Interesting Sites from Urban (W6MPB)

Here are a couple of cool sites that Urban provided:

When wind turbines go bad: <http://tinyurl.com/BadTurbines> (You know one these guys could take out your tower in an instant... and maybe you house too!)

Why mess with commercial power tubes when you can roll your own? This delightful 17 minute French video shows how: <http://tinyurl.com/YourOwnTriode>

The Salt Water Antenna: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tIZUhu21sQ>

Tower Climbing Anyone: <http://www.todaybigthing.com/2010/09/15>

2010 TOP TEN MOST WANTED COUNTRIES

North America West Coast

#1 North Korea (oops... #1 for me)



Here we go on our excursion through the 10 most wanted countries by hams on the West Coast. Most of information for this and future articles is pulled from internet sources. History and background comes from the CIA World Factbook and Wikipedia. The ham radio portion is from the various DX periodicals and various announcements as well as email threads that were found on Google. DXSummit was used to verify operating times.

The first and longest standing country on the most wanted list is North Korea. It was not that long ago when China too was on the list however the location of both countries leaves no doubt that it is not distance or accessibility that leaves us wanting. North Korea is #1 on the list for good reason. There have been only three valid operations from there since the country was formed in 1948 and about the same non-sanctioned ones.

The three valid operations were:

P5/OH2AM (OH2BC, OH2BH, OH0XX)

May 14, 1995

Amateur Radio Demonstration - 20 QSOs

P51BH (OH2BH)

April 21, 1999

Amateur Radio Demonstration 263 QSOs

P5/4L4FN (4L4FN)

Nov. 2001 - Nov. 2002

Regular operation > 16,194 QSOs
12,170 unique calls

Assuming that the hams that worked each operation did not work the other there is a maximum of 12,477 amateurs that have worked North Korea.



Korean History

Korea was an independent kingdom for most of its history. It was occupied by Japan beginning in 1905 after the Russo-Japanese War. In 1910, Japan formally annexed the entire peninsula. Much of the South was industrialized by Japan. Following World War II, Korea was split at the 38 parallel with the northern half coming under Soviet Union administration and the southern half under United States administration. In 1948, unable to agree on unifying the two administrations into one government, the country was divided in two. Two governments, The Republic of Korea (ROK), and The Peoples Democratic Republic of North Korea (DPRK), were formed. Both claim title to all of Korea thus creating the basis for the Korean conflict in 1950. This conflict ended in stalemate and truce. No peace treaty or agreement has been struck between the two governments. The border was again set at the 38 parallel. Though there has been some border flare ups nothing of the magnitude of the Korean War has occurred. Tension between the two nations still exists today. Both want to assimilate the other and the border on both sides is one of the heaviest protected in the world. Under its founder President KIM Il Sung, North Korea adopted a policy of diplomatic and economic "self-reliance" as a check against outside influence. Kim's son, the current ruler Kim Jong Il, was officially

designated as his father's successor in 1980, assuming a growing political and managerial role until the elder Kim's death in 1994. The DPRK since the mid-1990s has relied heavily on international aid to feed its population.

For the most part North Korea has been a closed country with very few foreign travelers breaching its borders. During the Cold War very few other than those from communist countries entered the DPRK. Even today the country is very much opposed to Western influence particularly the United States. Those who visit North Korea are closely monitored and contact with North Korean citizens is limited. North Koreans have little contact with the outside world. Those who own short wave radios are allowed to only listen to North Korean stations.

Here are some more facts:

Slightly smaller in area than Mississippi (120,538 sq km)

Borders with China, South Korea and Russia

Population: 22,665,345 (2010 estimate)

Median Age: 33.9 years

Most able body adults between the ages of 15 and 38 are in the military.

Pyongyang, the Capital, is 120 miles from Seoul, the capital of South Korea.



Amateur Radio Overview

As mentioned earlier amateur radio operation by its citizens is not permitted in the DPRK. Licensing for foreign amateurs visiting is difficult if at all possible. Martti Laine, the DX missionary superb, was able to transcend this obstacle and, at least for a short time, produce some activity for the amateur community. He negotiated two demonstrations. One possibly was conducted in the free trade zone between China and DPRK. It was Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN, a UN worker with the World Food Program, who through his unique position and timing (being in the right person in the right place at the right time), was able to capitalize on Martti's efforts. It appeared that the way was paved for foreign workers to operate with certain restrictions and possibly in isolation from the general population much like the American compounds in Saudi Arabia. Due to a disagreement between the DPRK and the UN all WFP personnel were required to leave. Just as quickly as amateur radio privileges were granted they were revoked. With tensions between North Korea and the rest of the world escalating due to nuclear testing, missile test launches over Japan and recently the sinking of a ROK naval

vessel prospective operations look pretty bleak.

There is one event taking place right now that might tip the scales. Kim Jong-Il just made his son a four star general. This is seen as a prelude to him becoming leader of the country. He was educated in Switzerland and, though not likely to diverge far from his father's position on the West, Kim Jong Un may bring some change in the policies possibly opening up the country to trade and amateur radio.

P5/OH2AM (OH2BC, OH2BH, OH2AM) May 14, 1995



The P5/OH2AM was a demonstration of amateur radio to the leaders of North Korea. Martti Laine, OH2BH, had made four trips to the country in an attempt to open it up to amateur radio. Finally, on the fifth trip, they were permitted to demonstrate amateur radio to the Minister of Telecommunications. The operators were OH2BC, Kari, OH2BH, Martti OH2BH and Olli OH0XX. Martti intended to make a contact with a station in Helsinki where Kim Jong Il's brother was ambassador and presiding at the other end. The possibility of handing out a few contacts was in question as this was a very sensitive issue and no one wanted things to go sour.

The visit to the DRPK had been announced in advance. No details were given just that the plans for activating North Korea were underway. This put the DX community on high alert. Many were eagerly watching for a brief appearance from this elusive county.

At around 1510Z on May 13, 1995, Kan Mizoguchi, JA1BK, received a message from a JA station, informing him that R0/OH0XX was looking for him on 7005 kHz. Kan had phoned Martti the day before at his hotel in Vladivostok. Here they were in Khasan, the only town on the border of Russia and North Korea. They were using the portable rig Kan had supplied. Kan made contact with Olli on 7005 kHz and immediately moved to 7045 kHz. He contacted Martti on SSB, and relayed a message to Leena, Martti's wife, in Hong Kong. The message was they would be crossing the border tomorrow. Kan chatted with the group for about 30 minutes. It was like a worldwide party line. It became public knowledge that the operation may take place the next day.

Martti appeared on 20M SSB and announced "Everybody stand by, this is P5/OH2AM." He attempted to contact Finland several times. The snow static was too heavy. At a pause DU9RG called Martti and he responded, then the band erupted.

As Martti's had announced earlier, P5/OH2AM moved to 40M CW at 0101Z. Olli was running in contest mode from a keyboard. It was obvious he was in a hurry trying to make as many contacts before they pulled the plug on the demonstration. JA1UQP worked him first then another pileup erupted. Several JA stations got into the log.

Kan called W6GO and SP7HT to let them know that the operation was on. W6GO immediately sent out the news via the DX Packetcluster. Unfortunately no one in the USA could work them.

Here is a partial list of the 20 who managed to make a QSO: DU9RG, DU3YL, ES1AR, JA1BK, JA1UQP, JA1SNF, JA2VPO, JA8EAT, JA8GQZ, JF3PEA, JH1ORA, JL1GZH, JR2SHA, OH3YI, 7L2STQ. Again this was meant to only be a demonstration. It was fortunate that a few contacts were made other than the planned QSO with Finland.

P51BH (OH2BH) April 21, 1999



Martti Laine, OH2BH, made a sixth trip to North Korea and demonstrated ham radio to officials in attendance. P51BH appeared on 20M CW at approximately 0530 UTC. At 0640 UTC Martti moved to 14.195 MHz SSB. Finally P51BH QSYed to 21.295 MHz SSB. He went QRT just before 0800 UTC. The first regional QSOs were Asia-JA2DO, Europe-OH5MBF, Oceania-KH6WU and the United States-W6WKE. During this brief stint 263 contacts were made, working mostly Europe and Japan, as well as 9K2HN and some West Coast US stations.

In Martti's words; "While discussing the future of amateur radio in a longer term perspective an immediate allowance was made to test the equipment". The operation took place from the telecom center premises "with North Koreans climbing a 150-ft. tower to hoist the antennas". The antennas were left in place together with the Yaesu FT-847 equipment. The station could go operational at the flip of a switch. The operation was not made public ahead of time. In Martti's experience what can destroy an opportunity the fastest and discourage officials from considering the hobby is a conflict between hams trying to put a country on the map.

P5/4L4FN 2001 - 2002



Ed, 4L4FN, works for the U.N. World Food Program. In 2001 Ed was supporting relief efforts in North Korea. For the two years prior he attempted to obtain ham radio operating privileges. In November of 2001 Ed was given verbal permission. Ed brought his Icom 706 Mark IIG into the country. He built a simple dipole resonant on 20M and used it on 10M as well. In late January Ed put up a Butternut multiband vertical and expanded his operations to 15M. In August 2002 he received a Hex Beam which he later installed. Ed operated in his spare

time. He worked 12 hours a day leaving a few hours to rest and to perform the usual duties of life. Nevertheless for several months Ed had been active three to five times a week for long stretches at a time.

Initially Bruce, KK5DO, Ed's QSL manager, attempted several 20M skeds all of them ending with no success. Ed however was able to make a contact with Tom, N7ZT, and asked if he could contact Bruce. Unfortunately, there was no path between the Tom and Bruce. Ed's operation was limited. He did work a Philippine station, several in California stations and one in Alaska. Finally KK5DO, AB5A, K3SX, KM3V, N5MT, W3LPL, W3UR and W5WP all made a successful QSOs with Ed on 10M SSB.



During the following month Ed operated on 20M and 10M SSB split. When the vertical went up in February 2002 Ed could be frequently found on 21.225 SSB and sparingly on CW. In February Ed took a trip home and returned with gear enabling him to operate digital modes. In May he proceeded to operate RTTY. Ed received the Hex Beam in August and had it installed and operational in September. He proceeded to operate until at the request of the government all operation was terminated. On November 22nd all equipment was disassembled and sealed. Bruce, KK5DO has kept an excellent website going that kept track of Ed's operations. <http://www.amsatnet.com/p5.html> Ed gave many hams the unique opportunity to add North Korea to their DXCC standings and put them on the top of the Honor Roll. He made 16,194 QSOs with 12,170 unique call signs in a year.

DXCC approval from the ARRL came in stages. First the SSB contacts were approved. The approval was given for RTTY contacts on July 18, 2002. I could not find any approval for CW contacts. There is no mention of ARRL approval in either notices for that mode.



Operations That Did Not Make the Grade

OK1DTG/P5 & P51DTG

Josef Zabavik was in the Czech army in 1992. He was stationed in North Korea for two years. According to him he received permission from a military authority to operate with 10 watts on 40 meter. In April of 1992 stations worked him on 40M, 20M, and 15M. No written authorization was forwarded to the ARRL. It seems he was given only verbal permission and it was not from a telecommunications authority. Later that year a station signing P51DTG showed up. He probably was a pirate. Josef to this day affirms he did operate from North Korea and it was an exciting time.

WAZ - 15 CZECHOSLOVAKIA / N. KOREA ITU - 28

OK 1 - DTG

GTH LOC: JO 70 FB / P LOC: P5

CFM OUR QSO WITH NY RA ACTIVITY IN NORTH KOREA

TORADIO	DATE	UTC	2WAY	on MHz	R-S-T
K6K11	12.04.1992	13.45	CW	7	599

QTH: PYONGYANG CITY

TNX - QSL - PSE
VIA: P. O. BOX 69
113 27 PRAHA 1

73 from *Adolf*
OK1DTG

OR DIRECT
JOSEF ZABAVIK
OHRADNI 1361
140 00 PRAHA 4

P5RS7 1992



One of the most infamous scams of all time perpetrated on the amateur radio community were the operations of Romeo Stepanenko. Romeo's exploits have the makings of a great book. Born in 1966 Romeo he received a degree in math and computer science from the University of Simferopol. He was employed by a joint Soviet - Vietnamese company, Kiulong, in 1989. Romeo was assigned to Vietnam. The minister of communication wanted to initiate an amateur radio service. Romeo taught amateur radio during the day and at night he operated as 3W3RR. Romeo had been given permission to operate

from The Spratly islands in 1990 which he did do. Vietnam considers the Spratly Islands to be a chain of islands that start a few miles off their coast and extends down into the South China Sea.

Romeo stated that the trip to the island took 2 days, enough to be separated from the mainland of Vietnam. The operation was plagued with money problems. Insufficient fuel plus a failed generator kept them off the air for 8 days. The ship that brought them returned with fuel and another generator. They completed the operation and returned to Saigon bankrupt. Shortly after their return a second opportunity presented itself and they went again to the Spratlys in 1991.

Romeo then conducted an expedition to Afghanistan. It was rumored that he was a high ranking KGB official and used his contacts to influence officials. He took two trips the first to Kabul in January 1991 which was plagued with problems and danger. Stealth antennas were used to avoid arousing suspicion of the locals who were very active in removing Soviets from their country. The first operation netted 13,128 QSOs. The second, in December 1991, was to a town on the border near Tajikistan. This operation was much simpler to complete and yielded 24,000 QSOs. The ARRL DXAC quickly accepted both operations.

After a short stint back to Russia where he had some dealings with Yeltsin and the Russian White House Romeo initiated a DXpedition to Myanmar in September of 1991. Though other amateurs had failed Romeo managed to obtain operating permission and conducted the operation at a site designated by the Yangon government. The operation netted 50,007 QSOs. At the same time Yoshi, JA1UT, was in contact with the Director General of Information and Broadcasting of Myanmar regarding initiating amateur radio service. He was in the process of taking the issue to the cabinet when the XY0RR DXpedition came on the air. Subsequently the Director responded to Yoshi's request. It was denied. No licenses have been issued or would be issued in the foreseeable future. This operation launched Romeo into the super-DXpeditioner category. He was in demand speaking at conventions throughout the world. Again the DXAC had no problem approving this operation. The QSL card for this operation is very sharp. The operators are in clean khaki clothes with pith helmets, a small tent, and a palm tree in the background. It was as if they were in a photography studio.

Was this the end of the adventures? Not quite. Romeo operated from Iran in August 1992 as 9D0RR and received approval from the DXAC.

Here we come to the P5RS7 operation. It was reported that a press release indicated that Kan, JA1BK, and Romeo had obtained permission by a military authority to operate from North Korea. The first contact was reported around 0020 UTC on December 19, 1992. There was a second press release on December 20th indicating that the operation was shut down by the local authorities. Thirty minutes later P5RS7 appeared again on 40M.

Subsequently in 1993 Romeo went on another DXpedition to Libya. Romeo reported that he was arrested and detained under suspicion of plotting to assassinate Egyptian President Mubarak and the Libyan leader Kaddafi. Furthermore he was accused of using amateur radio as a cover for illegal drug trafficking by communicating with Turkish ships in the ports of Benghazi and Alexandria. He was released and went under doctors care to recover his health.

Romeo submitted written authorization for P5RS7 in 1996 which was rejected by the ARRL DXAC. Romeo was disqualified from the DXCC program under the ethics clause. Any further submissions for any of his operations would be rejected. DX Bulletin ARLD011 in 1996 stated:

"The ARRL Awards Committee met recently to review documentation submitted for the 1992-93 P5RS7 operation submitted by Romeo Stepanenko. After a review of all material available, the Awards Committee voted unanimously to disqualify Romeo Stepanenko from participation in the DXCC program. This disqualification is based upon Rule 12, operations Ethics, and Rule 13th The disqualification means that Stepanenko is not eligible to participate in the DXCC program in any manner. This includes, as provided for under Rule 12, paragraph (b) disallowance of contacts made with any station or DXpedition operated by him from the time of this action." It appears that several of Romeo's operations were in question. The ARRL did disqualify any further XY0RR submissions citing that new evidence obtained recently had indicated the operation was not valid.

Many interesting rumors surfaced after the disqualification. One story alleged that Romeo was an arms dealer for Russia in many of the Asian countries from which he operated. It went on to allege that the documentation for the P5RS7 operation was a forgery and the pictures taken of the site from which they operated was not in North Korea rather in Vladivostok which was confirmed by radio direction finding. Another snippet alleged that the operation was from a town in Russia adjacent to North Korea about 15 to 20 miles from the border.

Where is Romeo today? Several websites indicate that he was arrested in March of 2004 while on vacation in Cyprus and extradited to the US. He was allegedly arrested for credit card fraud and was indicted on 40 counts of wire fraud. Allegedly Romeo Stepanenko a.k.a. Romeo Vega was involved in a cybercrime factory which, through the internet, illegally collected and sold in mass legitimate credit card information. Here is where the story becomes vague. One website stated that he was held without trial for seven years. Another says he was tried and convicted in 2005. The last information found says he is in jail in New York. In any event I believe a publisher somewhere would love to put his story in print. Several tragic stories (e.g. The Godfather) have been woven into our psyche through written media. This one would be fraught with international intrigue and suspense. Of course it would have to be categorized as fiction. One thing that does seem odd can be summed up in a simple question. Why would someone expend so much effort to activate so many countries and not do it for real? Was it money? Was it fame? Was it both?

Other Efforts

In July 1996 Laci, HA0HW, was working in the Capital Pyongyang. He attempted to obtain and was denied operating privileges. In October 1996 Zorro, JH1AJT, and Jun, JH4RHF, were in Pyongyang where they installed a ham station and made several lectures on the hobby. They could not do a live demonstration and it is not known if the radio was ever turned on subsequently.

HM0DX April 2000

A fairly knowledgeable ham, possibly from Japan's 7th district began an operation signing HM0DX. He gave his name as Kim and that he had a three day conditional license similar to P51BH. He gave a PO Box in a town that borders South Korea and is a very controlled tourist area, as his QSL address in North Korea. The problem is North Korea does not have private POBs. Hams using their beam headings and radio location deduced he was in Japan at the time of the operation. Nevertheless Kim told a convincing story to many hams whom he contacted and did not waiver in his claims. Obviously he was a slim. No one has received a QSL nor has anyone submitted any documentation to the ARRL. This pirate did create quite a stir.

P5/KA2HTV (2005)

Dr. Borenstein on a humanitarian aid mission to DPRK initially received permission to operate from the Telecommunications and Posts. Several sources supported his effort. He brought equipment in to the country and as he was preparing to begin the operation permission was pulled. The explanation was a miscommunication and mix up in the Ministry of Telecommunications. He left some gear.

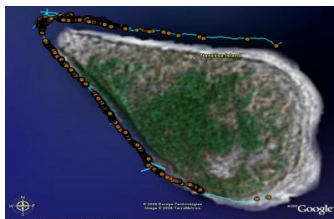
So this concludes the story the most wanted country from the West Coast. I tell you this journey had so many twists and turns. It was filled with some very interesting situations and characters. The most common mode for rare DXpeditions today is the large efforts like K5D and YI9PSE. Everything is well prepared and they are usually pulled off with out a hitch or only a few bumps in the road. As I see it we need more individual possibly midnight operations by amateurs willing to go out on a limb taking risks to activate new countries. I think showing up at the PTT, like one ham did in 1970s in Yemen, and requesting a license is gutsy and sometimes pays off. When he was talking to the Director he felt something metallic nudging him. It was the guard that was behind the door poking him with his AK47. Now that adds some zing to our mundane lives! If someone is interested in going on an Indiana Jones type venture rest assured I will be work him ... from the comfort of my air conditioned home. Ain't DXing grand!

I just noticed that North Korea is #3 on our list. It must have been a Freudian slip! P5 is the only entity I need from the top 10 and it mysteriously floated to the top! Ooops! Oh well I'm not complaining. Next month we will look at Mount Athos and Glorioso. Neither are as rich with ham radio history and intrigue so the articles will be short. In December we will look at Yemen, Tromelin, and Heard Island. These three have been sparsely activated. In January we will fill out the top 10 with Navassa, Somalia, Amsterdam and Juan De Nova / Europa. 73 until then!

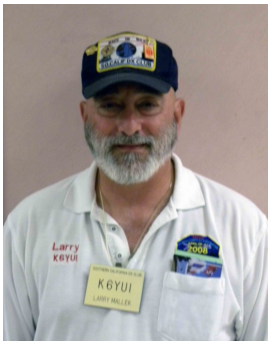


2010 TOP 10 NEEDED COUNTRIES NORTH AMERICA WEST COAST

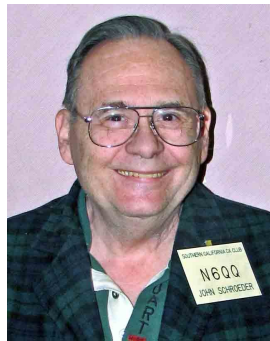
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2	SV/A	MOUNT ATHOS
3	P5	NORTH KOREA
4	7O	YEMEN
5	FT5T	TROMELIN
6	VK0/H	HEARD ISLAND
7	KP1	NAVASSA
8	T5	SOMALIA
9	FT5Z	AMSTERDAM
10	FT5/JE	JUAN DE NOVA/EUROPA



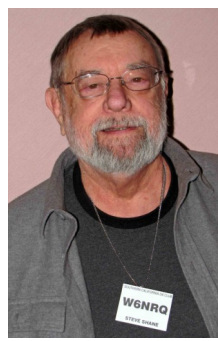
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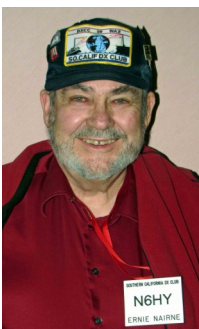
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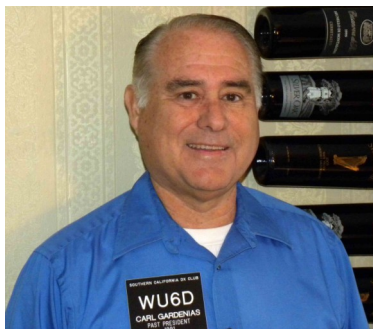
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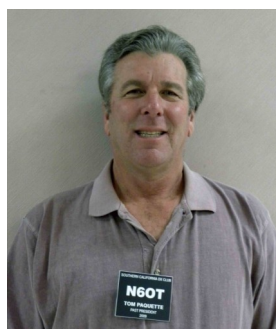
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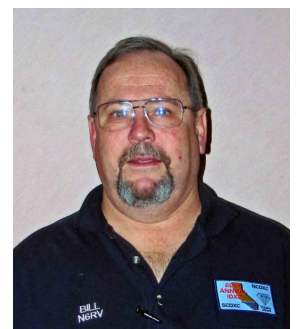
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